

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Applicants have carefully studied the outstanding Final Office Action and believe the present amendment, filed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.116, to be fully responsive to all points of final rejection raised by the Examiner, and to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants further respectfully submit that the claim amendments are of a minor nature and do not raise new issues, and as such, should not *per se* require the Examiner to perform a further search. Additionally, the recitation of claim 17, now rejected by the Examiner, was agreed with the Examiner and his Primary Examiner at an interview held with the applicants' representative at the USPTO on January 7, 2004. For all of the above reasons, entry of this amendment is earnestly requested, as well as favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application.

Claim rejections - 35 USC § 112

The Examiner has stated that:

"Claims 17-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. See MPEP § 2172.01. The legitimacy of this "omitted steps" rejection can most clearly be appreciated by noting that the presently recited steps do not unambiguously set out precisely how said method produces a hologram of an object in a solid transparent material. More specifically, the final method step should be changed such that it read, for the sake of example, as follows: "focusing said pulsed laser beam within said solid transparent material to create a set of scattering centers corresponding to said computed three-dimensional set of points, thus creating said set of scattering centers that, collectively, define said hologram." Such amendment will make it clear that said pulsed laser beam is focused within said solid transparent material and not, as presently recited, onto abstract points (viz., computed set of points) independently of said solid transparent material." (item 1 of final Office Action).

The applicants have amended the last element of claim 17 to recite language essentially as proposed by the Examiner.

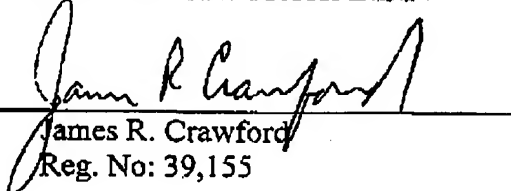
In light of the amendment made to claim 17, applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is overcome, and respectfully request withdrawal of the grounds for rejection of the claim under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, thus rendering amended claim 17 allowable. Claims 18-24 are dependent on amended claim 17 and recite further patentable matter, and are therefore also deemed allowable.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the all of the claims, as amended where applicable, are believed to define patentable subject matter over the cited references and are considered to be in condition for allowance. Entry of this amendment, reconsideration and prompt allowance of this application are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted

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